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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

15 November 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Reconnaissance Office

SUBJECT: National Reconnaissance Program (NRP)
Budget for FY 67

1. I appreciate receiving the submission of the DNRO-- recommended budget for fiscal year 1967 as prepared during Dr. McMillan's tenure. I fully realize that this was so in view of your short tenure to date in office. I also appreciate the time frame within which the budget needs to be firmed up, which also faces me with a very brief period to submit my comments to the Executive Committee. I am glad to learn that in the future I will have a full and earlier opportunity to conduct my examination and review of your recommendations before we resolve the levels of the 1968 and subsequent NRO budgets.

2. In line with the budgetary situation facing the President in 1967, I generally accept the level of funds which are proposed in your memorandum of 4 November 1965.

3. One of the most important objectives, I believe, in developing the NRP is to provide for adequate funds to insure that existing programs and new concepts are appropriately and energetically pursued. I am concerned that this is not

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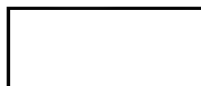
necessarily the case with respect to the provision of adequate funds for new concepts in the estimates for 1967 which you have forwarded to me.

4. With regard to programs in which CIA has a direct responsibility or interest, I am in general agreement with the  recommended for aircraft and support programs except for the fact that no funds are provided for either ISINGLASS or photo balloons.

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5. ISINGLASS: The view expressed, "the requirement for this aircraft, particularly under NRO auspices, is in question," needs to be clarified. While many aspects of the ISINGLASS concept need examination, the forum for this and the related requirement determination is clearly within the scope of the NRP. CIA advocates a minimum funding level  This would be devoted to an airframe "Advanced Concept Evaluation", including design and operational technique trade-offs, cost effectiveness analyses, survivability analyses, alternative applications and program planning factors. This assumes that comparable engine efforts would be folded into on-going Air Force research and development programs.

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6. Photo Balloons: The position taken in your paper, that this subject "is deferred to 1968 consideration", is difficult to evaluate. I feel this collection method has not received the attention it warrants and suggest [redacted] be included for an Advanced Concept Evaluation investigation.

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7. With regard to satellite programs in which CIA has a direct responsibility or interest, I accept the line item of [redacted] for CORONA, assuming this figure includes [redacted] for payload costs in FY 67.

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8. With regard to the recommended budget of [redacted] for new general search, I understand this figure should be adequate, AND MAY WELL BE LESS DEPENDING ON THE SYSTEM SOLUTION. ANY SAVINGS SHOULD BE APPLIED TO THIS PROGRAM.

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9. I note that [redacted] is recommended for vulnerability. I believe that the Agency can make a valuable contribution in this field, specifically in developing threat models and performing associated analysis.

10. I am concerned that there is no apparent provision made in the budget for monies with respect to [redacted] in the event the Executive Committee decides to move forward with this program. I understand that CIA has provided specific figures to your comptroller covering funds which would be required in

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1966, as well as in the years FY 67 through FY 69.

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12. Insofar as the recommended budget for non-CIA line items is concerned, I wish to make the following comments:

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